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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/597,150	06/20/2000	Takehiro Yoshida	35.C14560	5109

5514 7590 11/12/2003

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EXAMINER

ZAHEDIAN TAJNAKI, GHOLAMREZA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2666

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/597,150

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Zahedian-Tajniki GholamReza

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/20/2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 9, line 1: "bus 266" should be replaced with bus 26.

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

Claims 9, 18, and 27 recite the limitation "simultaneously" when transmitting the received data and printing the received data when executing forcible printing of the received data. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 9, 18, and 27 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 9, 18, and 27 recite the limitation "simultaneously". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. See 37 CFR 1.75 (d-1).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masako Nozawa et al (hereinafter Mozawa) U.S. Patent No. 5,668,640.

Regarding claim 1, “multi-address transmission means for executing ring type multi-address transmission in a group of the communication apparatuses” is anticipated by the facsimile equipment which provides repetitive transmission of data in a circular transmission (or “ring type”) manner and input means for specifying and inputting a plurality of facsimile transmission destinations. See Column 2 lines 4-7, column 3, lines 48-51 and Column 4, lines 1-8.

“determination means for making determination as to specifying of the ring type multi-address transmission” is anticipated by circulation table data indicative of circular destinations and circulating order and by determining a handling manner of the circulation table data. See Column 3, lines 38-43.

“multi-address transmission means memory-receives received data and transmits the memory-received data to a next station after the data is actually printed out” is anticipated by image memory 4, destination memory 15, printer 11, print controller 12, and transmission functions (see Fig.1). Using the aforementioned

components, the user has the option to retrieve the received document and to re-transmit the document before or after printing. See Column 5, lines 1-7, 14-15, 37-39 and 44-45; column 8, lines 19-21; and Fig. 7B.

Regarding claims 2, 11, and 20: "multi-address transmission means transmits the memory-received data to the next station based on specification from an operator" is anticipated by key 627 that is used to start memory transmission and circular transmission. See column 8, lines 19-21.

Regarding claims 3, 12, and 21: "transmits the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on specification from the operator is anticipated by image memory 4, destination memory 15, printer 11, print controller 12, and transmission functions (see Fig.1). Using the aforementioned components, the user has the option to retrieve the received document and to re-transmit the document before or after printing. See Column 5, lines 1-7, 14-15, 37-39 and 44-45; column 8, lines 19-21; and Fig. 7B.

Regarding claims 4, 13, and 22: " selection means for selecting, based on specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station, alternatively transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out" is anticipated by key 627, image memory 4, destination memory 15, printer 11, print controller 12, and transmission functions (See Fig.1). Using the

aforementioned components, the user has the option to retrieve the received document and to re-transmit the document before or after printing. See Column 5, lines 1-7, 14-15, 37-39 and 44-45; column 8, lines 19-21; and Fig. 7B.

Regarding claim 5: "communication apparatus designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to the next station" is anticipated by facsimile equipment, input means for specifying and inputting a plurality of facsimile transmission destinations as circular destinations. See Column 3, lines 48-51 and Column 4, lines 1-8.

"receiving means for receiving data sent by the multi-address transmission" is anticipated by image memory 4. See column 5, lines 14-15.

"selection means for selecting transfer/non-transfer of the received data to the next station based on instruction from a user" is anticipated by operating keys (key 625, 626, and 627) that are used by the operator to erase received documents, to stop transmission, and to transmit the memory received data to next stations. See Fig. 5 and column 8, lines 1-25.

"transferring means for transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction from the user" is anticipated by transmission control means, key 627, modem, and Input/output controllers. See column 2 lines 31-39, column 8, lines 19-21 and Fig 5.

"transferring means forcibly transfers the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction

from the user is anticipated by specifying a circulating order, determining a handling manner, and document circulation operation.. See Column 3 lines 38-43, column 4 lines 1-8, and column 14 lines 18-26.

Regarding claims 6, 15, and 24: "displaying means for displaying presence/absence of the received data" is anticipated by the display 61 and display function. See column 5 lines 1-7, column 8 lines 13-14, and Fig. 5.

"storing means for storing the received data" is anticipated by image memory 4. See column 5 lines 14-15 and Fig.1.

"printing means for printing the stored data" is anticipated by printer 11 and print controller 12. See Fig.1 and column 5 lines 37-40.

"storing means stores time of reception" is anticipated by the signal reception time which is stored within the management data memory 10 in the attribute data management area 101. See column 6 lines 18-35, Fig.4 and Fig.8.

"displaying means displays presence of the received data" is anticipated by the display 61 and display function. See column 5 lines 1-7, column 8 lines 13-14, and Fig. 5.

"if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instructions from the user, said printing means forcibly prints the received data" is anticipated by specifying a circulating order and by determining a handling manner. See Column 3, lines 38-43.

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Regarding claims 7, 16, and 25: "starting means for starting the multi-address transmission" is anticipated by key 627 that is used to start the facsimile transmission. See Column 8 lines 19-21.

"registration means for registering data regarding the next station" is anticipated by input means for specifying destinations. See column 2 lines 27-28.

Regarding claims 8, 17, and 26: "erasing means for erasing the transferred data from the storing means if the transfer of the received data is normally finished" is anticipated by key 625 and the erase command used to erase the selected received document data from the image memory 4. See column 8 lines 14-16, Fig. 5, and Fig. 7. Step S2205.

Regarding claim 9, 18, and 27: "printing means prints the reception of the data sent by the multi-address transmission and the transfer of the received data to the next station simultaneously when executing the forcible printing of the received data" is anticipated by specifying a circulation table and circulating order resulting in the document data to be automatically circulated among facsimile equipments (See Column 3 lines 38-43). Also, Printer 11 and print controller 12 are used for controlling the start of the printer. See Fig. 1. and column 5, lines 37-40.

Regarding claim 10, "communication method comprising the steps of executing ring type multi-address transmission in a group of the communication apparatuses" is

anticipated by facsimile equipment, input means for specifying and inputting a plurality of facsimile transmission destinations as circular destinations. See Column 3, lines 48-51 and Column 4, lines 1-8.

"determination as to specifying of the ring type multi-address transmission" is anticipated by circulation table data indicative of circular destinations and circulating order and by determining a handling manner of the circulation table data. See Column 3, lines 38-43.

"when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission step memory-receives received data and transmits the memory-received data to a next station after the data is actually printed out" is anticipated by image memory 4, destination memory 15, printer 11, print controller 12, and transmission functions (See Fig.1). Using the aforementioned components, the user has the option to retrieve the received document and to re-transmit the document before or after printing. See Column 5, lines 1-7, 14-15, 37-39 and 44-45; column 8, lines 19-21; and Fig. 7B.

Regarding claim 14, "communication method designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station" is anticipated by facsimile equipment, input means for specifying and inputting a plurality of facsimile transmission destinations as circular destinations. See Column 3, lines 48-51 and Column 4, lines 1-8.

"receiving data sent by the multi-address transmission" is anticipated by image memory 4. See column 5, lines 14-15.

"selecting transfer/non-transfer of the received data to the next station based on instruction from a user" is anticipated by operating keys (key 625, 626, and 627) that are used by the operator to erase, to stop transmission, and to transmitting the memory received data to next stations. See Fig. 5 and column 8, lines 1-25.

"transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction from the user" is anticipated by transmission control means, key 627, modem, and Input/output controllers. See column 2 lines 31-39, column 8, lines 19-21 and Fig 5.

"transferring step forcibly transfers the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user" is anticipated by specifying a circulating order, determining a handling manner, and document circulation operation.. See Column 3 lines 38-43, column 4 lines 1-8, and column 14 lines 18-26.

Regarding claim 19, " storage medium to store a computer program for the implementation of a communication method comprising the steps of executing ring type multi-address transmission in a group of the communication apparatuses" is anticipated by facsimile equipment. The facsimile equipment comprises Main controller 3, Input/output controller 9, print controller 12, read controller 14, management data memory 10, destination data memory 15, and write controller 8 (see Fig.1.). Also the

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facsimile equipment can add, read, and interpret file headers (see column 5 lines 57-67). The facsimile equipment is capable of automatically transmitting documents in a circular transmission and if the circular transmission data is not stored in every station, the facsimile equipment automatically transmits destination data along with the data document (see column 4 lines 1-9). The facsimile equipment performs document data processing (column 4, line 32-34), memory transmission processing (column 4, line 38-41), and circular transmission processing (column 4 line 44-46). Also the facsimile equipment interprets operator commands and executes certain functions. It is inherent that certain program drives the facsimile equipment to perform such functions. It is well known in the art that this program and its storage requirements are implemented in the main controller and its associated storage or it is distributed among several components performing such functions as shown in Fig.1.

"making determination as to specifying of the ring type multi-address transmission" is anticipated by circulation table data indicative of circular destinations and circulating order and by determining a handling manner of the circulation table data. See Column 3, lines 38-43.

"when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission step memory--receives received data and transmits the memory-received data to a next station after the data is actually printed out" is anticipated by image memory 4, destination memory 15, printer 11, print controller 12, and transmission functions (See Fig.1). Using the aforementioned components, the user has the option to retrieve the received document and to re-transmit the document before or after

printing. See Column 5, lines 1-7, 14-15, 37-39 and 44-45; column 8, lines 19-21; and Fig. 7B.

Regarding claim 23, "storage medium designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station" is anticipated by facsimile equipment, main controller 3, image memory 4, management data memory 10, and destination data memory 15 (see Fig.1 and explanations for claim 19).

"receiving data sent by the multi-address transmission" is anticipated by image memory 4. See column 5, lines 14-15.

"selecting transfer/non-transfer of the received data to the next station based on instruction from a user" is anticipated by operating keys (key 625, 626, and 627) that are used by the operator to erase, to stop transmission, and to transmitting the memory received data to next stations. See Fig. 5 and column 8, lines 1-25.

"transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction from the user" is anticipated by transmission control means, key 627, modem, and Input/output controllers. See column 2 lines 31-39, column 8, lines 19-21 and Fig 5.

"transferring step forcibly transfers the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user" is anticipated by specifying a circulating order, determining a handling manner, and document circulation operation.. See Column 3 lines 38-43, column 4 lines 1-8, and column 14 lines 18-26.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Nozawa, et al U.S. Patent No. 5,668,640 discloses a facsimile equipment.
- Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6,115,141 discloses method and apparatus for re-transmitting received facsimile message.
- Nakajima, U.S. Patent No. 5,392,133 discloses apparatus and method for transmitting image data in a format adapted to a condition of a destination.
- Satou, U.S. Patent No. 5,724,156 discloses facsimile apparatus and method having function of relay transmission or relay result report transmission.
- Nakajima, U.S. Patent No. 5,392,133 discloses apparatus and method for transmitting image data in a format adapted to a condition of a destination.
- Yoshino, U.S. Patent No. 5,196,843 discloses data communication apparatus with multi-address calling.
- Bristow et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,841,843 discloses facsimile forwarding method and system using a simulated telephone line interface.
- Makino, U.S. Patent No. 5,585,854 discloses data communication apparatus for multi-address transmission which directly transmits to the destination station upon detecting non-delivery status.

- Yoshida, U.S. Patent No. 5,594,867 discloses data communication apparatus that transmits in accordance with a reception time zone or a terminal from which data has been received.

INQUIRY

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zahedian-Tajniki, GholamReza whose telephone number is 703-305-0343. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 703-308-5463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-1113.

Zahedian-Tajniki, GholamReza

G.H.R. Zahedian
November 3, 2003

Seema S. Rao
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